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the historic sources of their own time, and to form independent and unprejudiced judgments concerning the mass of opinions, actions, institutions, and social products of all sorts in which he finds himself involved. In other words, whatever else our young people will become, citizens they must be; and the citizen must constantly form judgments of the historical sort, which can only be based upon contemporary sources. To enable him to do this should, perhaps, be the primary aim of the study of history."

The "sources" themselves as a subject of study have incontestably four great advantages over the mere second-hand statement based upon them: (1) They exercise the judgment of the student; (2) they enlist his sympathy in the actors; (3) they stimulate the pupil's curiosity; and lastly, (4) they furnish the dramatic element which makes distant events vivid and produces a lasting impression upon the mind. Nothing will make all this so clear as a comparison, let us say between what Prof. Fisher says in an excellent work of its kind* on the religion and morality of the Egyptians and the quotations given by Mrs. Barnes to illustrate the same subject.

Those who are familiar with the merits of the "Studies in General History" will be disappointed, however, in the way some important epochs in the history of our own country are treated in the more recent book. The Studies in American History, are to the extent of half the volume, devoted to the period preceding the formation of the Federal Constitution. The War of 1812 is treated in a way which leaves a very false impression upon the student's mind as does the account of our war with Mexico. These defects are by no means inherent in the system, and they could easily be corrected by shifting the point of view.

J. H. R.

SPANISH INSTITUTIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST. By Frank W. Blackmar, Ph. D., Professor of History and Sociology in the Kansas State University. Pp. xxvi., 353. Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins Press, 1891.

Under the designation of studies in institutions, an assumed new school of historical students has for some years,

* Outlines of Universal History, p. 38.

together with the issuance of some works of superior excellence, been imposing upon the world a succession of superficial, crude, or arid publications. The critics, when not absolutely laudatory, have been, as a rule, at least more than tolerant. Honest and steady-minded students of history soon recognized the shallowness and evil tendency of too much of this work. They were ready to admit the utility of such investigations, if done wholly as a matter of university class-work, and if not there allowed to lead the inquirer prematurely into too narrow a line of research. But they deprecated the discredit into which they saw that the publication of crude productions must bring our better scholarship; and they deplored the pernicious extension of university methods into colleges destitute of libraries and to classes of boys destitute of scholarship or even of scholarly habits.

Although no decided protest has been raised against the "school," nor any marked public dissent from the judgment of the reviews, there are signs in many directions that a reaction has sensibly begun. Demurrings, received a few years ago with astonishment, are to-day recognized as valid. The educational institutions that have encouraged this fever for publishing have suffered in estimation as promoters of earnest, honest and modest endeavor; and the journals that have allowed themselves to laud publications so pretentious, and yet so immature, have become discredited as sagacious, discriminating and impartial critical authorities. It is profoundly to be regretted that many a class of boys is yet going to be indoctrinated with the notion that they are versed in "institutions," while they possess no foundation of scholarship in a knowledge of the narrative and data of history.

The purpose of the book before us is to describe the origins, development and survivals of Spanish civilization in that portion of the United States which once formed part of Mexican territory. In the pursuit of this object, the author first traces the connection between Spanish institutions and Roman civilization. His proposition is that the Roman system of law, government and administration, both imperial and

municipal, has determined the character of the Spanish polity. The chapter in which he elaborates this proposition is the best in the book. Perhaps this may be partly accounted for by the fact that the field has been either directly or incidentally worked by great historical scholars, that the second-hand material for its study is the sifted product of fine judicial minds. But, it must also be said, the author's own extensions and applications of these researches are useful and interesting. Municipal vigor and popular representation in Spain, with their influences and their limitations, are properly described. The Moors, however, receive but little attention, and their residence in Spain is treated as a mere vanishing episode in Spanish civilization. In truth, however, their presence in Europe had an effect on Spanish institutions similar to that impression of Spanish institutions on America, which is described in this book.

This discussion is followed by brief chapters on the condition of Spain during her conquest of America, and on her system of colonization. The limitations which come from exclusive dependence on second-hand authorities begin to show themselves here.

In coming to the main theme of the book, chief attention is given to the Spanish in California. The discussion includes the first settlements in California, the mission system, municipalities and *presidios*. California, too, engages most attention in the chapters that describe the social condition of the Indians, the social and political life of the colonists, political and judicial powers, trade and commerce, and the question of land tenure. Most of this discussion has, however, general application, and relates in principle to New Mexico and Arizona as fully as to California. Throughout these chapters, the main reliance seems to be that historico-commercial monstrosity that goes by the name of Bancroft's *History of the Pacific States*. If the materials in this latter work had been recovered from their environment, rehabilitated, sorted by a discerning and judicial mind, and put into some elegance of literary dress, their source could have been excused.

But the treatment in the book before us is not much more discriminating than that of Bancroft's itself. The chief faults of the book seem to lie in an insufficient assimilation of materials, an insufficient attention to logical and literary form, and too great dependence on second-hand authorities. Excellent and indispensable works, such as those of Palou, De Mofras, Dana, Robinson, Dwinelle, Halleck, Rockwell, Schmidt and others, are referred to, but, it would seem, rather in following Bancroft than in an independent examination and comparison of them. There is slight evidence of acquaintance with Spanish archives. Even the best second-hand source of information on the history and institutions of California, in a sense similar to that in which Mommsen may be called a second-hand source of information on the Roman provinces, Hittell's *History of California* receives nowhere any acknowledgment. Hittell's work, which is a painstaking production of high historical merit, surely deserves to be included in a list of authorities on the subject of this book.

A study of Spanish institutions in English America and their influence on American civilization would lead us from what proved to be the evanescent matters of ecclesiastical, political and social life to the more enduring matters of municipal organization, legal principles, judicial methods and land titles. The student of American history gains his first interest in these Spanish institutions when he notes the conflict brought on between forces of Roman origin and those of Teutonic origin by the arrival of the American on Spanish territory. Having studied these institutions at the time when they were attacked by the American, he has to observe how far they were able to withstand the assault, and maintain a place among the supplanting institutions, either modifying the latter or complicating their working. He will find that the social features of this old life and the ecclesiastical features, as represented in the mission system, have no enduring influence, except in a sentimental and æsthetic way. Their service to us and to coming generations is in furnish-

ing a romantic background to our seemingly more prosaic life. As institutions, they are extinct. The student will then find that political features have been obliterated entirely, and that questions of municipal organization, and land tenures, questions of *pueblos*, *presidios* and grants, have an enduring influence only in the entanglement and embarrassment which they cause in judicial and legislative proceedings. Only in private law will he find any permanent modification. Here the principles of the Roman law by their descent through the Spanish have permanently affected the legal system of the Southwest.

But all these institutions survive in varying modes and degrees on other soil than that of the United States. They are of deep interest to the student, and they still await an historian.

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LABOUR AND LIFE OF THE PEOPLE OF LONDON. By CHARLES BOOTH. Vol. II, pp. 607, with maps, etc. London, Williams & Norgate, 1891.

No one who shared the general enthusiasm for the first volume of Mr. Charles Booth's compilation upon the "Labour and Life of East London" can be surprised at the welcome accorded this second volume, which extends the inquiry along substantially the same lines to all London.

Indeed, the advent of the first volume marked an epoch in the methods of private philanthropic study, presenting a mass of orderly detail which transformed the attitude of the intelligent public towards the increasingly pressing problem of the city slums. Previously East London had been to the outside world a synonym for hopeless degradation: the infinite patience of appreciative study and observation transformed this limbo into a struggling community, with very human needs and aspirations, and above all with unsuspected claims for sympathy and aid from those whose prosperity seems in some mysterious way bound up with the great